

## **More about Richard Bentley**

Richard Bentley CNZM, is a Wellington-based company director and management consultant.

Following a brief spell in consulting engineering with Beca Group he joined Challenge Corporation in a planning role in 1980 and transferred into Fletcher Challenge (FCL) when it was formed in early 1981. After three years involved in energy, minerals and industry planning, he transferred into Fletcher CSP as Chief Engineer and in 1986 as General Manager growing the business three fold through a series of acquisitions. In 1988 Fletcher Challenge acquired Petrocorp from the Crown and in late 1988 he was appointed CEO of the Natural Gas Corporation, then one of the three businesses that comprised Petrocorp. The three businesses were quickly split out and NGC became the first NZ utility to be listed on the NZX. He remained CEO of NGC for 12 years to 2001 when he retired and was appointed to the board and subsequently into the role of chairman of the audit and risk committee. He subsequently led the independent directors committee through the sale of NGC to Vector and retired from the board in 2005.

He has worked with many organisations including the NZQA, TEC, and Transit NZ, and he has served on a number of boards including CRI GNS (1992-2000), CRI Crop and Food (Chairman 2003-2007), NZX listed Wool Equities Limited (Chairman 2003 - 2006), Canesis Limited (Chairman 2004 -2006), privately owned Rissington Breedline Limited (Chairman 2001 - 2008), Medialab (now Harmonic, Chairman 2002 -2006) and he was an Electricity Commissioner from 2007 - 2010. He was a member of the Business Round Table for 10 years through the 1990s. He was Chairman of the Karori Sanctuary Trust from 2003 to 2009 through its development phase and emergence as Zealandia, and Chairman of the Guardians of the Sanctuary Trust until 2013. He was also a Director of the Carter Observatory Board for 10 years (Chairman 2003 -2008), and he conceived and led the modernisation of the Observatory and negotiated its subsequent transfer from Crown to WCC ownership. He remains Chairman of the Carter Observatory Trust.

In May 2009 he joined the Foundation for Research Science and Technology as Group Manager, Manufacturing and High Growth Firms, and continued across into the Ministry of Science and Innovation and the Ministry of Business Innovation and Employment, where he assisted with the preparations and design for Callaghan Innovation. He was CEO of the Centre for Advanced Engineering from 2013 until its closure in 2015.

Richard is secretary of the Engineering Leadership Forum (the CEOs of the professional engineering organisations) and involved in a variety of Wellington initiatives including the development of Karori, and the emerging project to develop Watts Peninsula as a heritage park.

Richard was educated at Canterbury University with an honours degree in civil engineering and a master's degree in economics. He is a Distinguished Fellow of the NZ Institution of Professional Engineers, and a Fellow of the Institute of Directors, and a Fellow of the NZ Society for Earthquake Engineering.

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